

From: Jon Thompson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 4:37pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Hello,

My name is Jon Thompson, and I am a resident of Iowa (706 South Main, Woodward.)

I've recently read that the National Department of Justice has settled with Microsoft on a punishment. In my opinion, this settlement is much too light, and it will not restrict Microsoft's existing illegal practices.

The remedy should require Microsoft to:

1. Use open standards.

Microsoft has shown that they repeatedly use a technique of "embracing and extinguishing." Microsoft will embrace an open technology, then make changes that only Microsoft products can understand. The web is an example of this. Microsoft has implemented new, subtle, additions to HTML (the web's language) that only Microsoft browsers can read.

2. Make all applications available to alternate Operating Systems.

Microsoft has kept other systems (Linux and Mac OS) out of businesses by limiting the available Microsoft software for those platforms. If MS was required to make all software available to at least two operating systems besides Windows, it would minimize that lock of their Monopoly.

Also, this would limit the pressure that Microsoft could impose on other companies. It is well known that Microsoft threatened to drop Mac OS support for Office unless Apple used Internet Explorer as the default browser. If MS was required to support two other operating systems for all applications, they wouldn't have this power.

I hope that Iowa is not one of the states that supports the current settlement, as it is not nearly hard enough.

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- Jon Thompson
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"They that give up essential liberty to obtain temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." - Benjamin Franklin

